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U.S. CHARGED WITH REPRESSION IN PUERTO RICO

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2128 GMT 10 August 1964--E ~~TOP SECRET//COMINT//NOFORN~~

(Text) San Juan--The United States is preparing to unleash a wide-ranging repression in Puerto Rico in an attempt to destroy the liberation movement, denounced Juan Mari Bras, the secretary general of the "movement for the independence of Puerto Rico." He pointed out that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which has a large contingent on the island, recommended to the U.S. Government the adoption of strong measures to contain the growing independence sentiment of the Puerto Rican people, which has been made quite evident in the movement's electoral strike campaign.

Among the measures proposed are the mass arrest of independence movement leaders so that the U.S. Government can take direct charge of repression on the island. Mari Bras stressed that Washington told the San Juan government that immediate steps must be taken to put an end to the movement for the independence of Puerto Rico's electoral abstention campaign.

The independence movement leader said that he had knowledge that the U.S. extreme rightwing, through the Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater, is preparing to begin a large scale campaign in the United States to deal with the "softness" of the repressive measures adopted by the Johnson administration in connection with the Puerto Rican liberation movement.